

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Fall 1994 Volume 64 Number 4



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Fall 1994

Volume 64, Number 4

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FRONT COVER: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Forney Lake, Fremont County, 20 April 1994.
Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information,
Instructions to Authors, Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (e-mail: oldcoot@iastate.edu)
Carl J. Bendorf, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 845 Cypress Ct., Iowa City, IA 52245
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014
James L. Fuller, Fall Field Reports Editor, 6 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246
W. Ross Silcock, Christmas Bird Count & Winter Field Reports Editor, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653

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Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

19-21 May 1995, Ida Grove

8-10 September 1995, Davenport

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)

*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1992 Edition: 6 for \$1.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

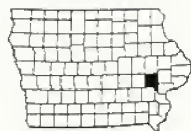
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BREEDING BIRDS OF THE CORALVILLE RESERVOIR AREA

THOMAS H. KENT, GENE WALSH, AND CHRIS EDWARDS

A phone call from Walsh to Kent requesting a list of breeding birds of the Coralville Reservoir was the stimulus that initiated this study. As Kent indicated to Walsh, we did not know precisely which species nested in the area, and it seemed like a good time to find out. In addition to the list, we set goals to estimate the relative abundance of regular species, look intensively for species not known to have nested in Johnson County, and to describe the occurrence of certain neotropical migrants in woodland tracts of various size. Walsh indicated that knowledge gained from the study might be useful in land management planning on the public lands in the area.



METHODS

After reviewing a reference on techniques for counting breeding birds (Verner 1985), it was clear that all techniques have some biases, and with the resources available to us, we could not hope to estimate true population densities of breeding birds in our area. We decided to concentrate on covering the study area as well as we could in order to find rare species and species in specialized habitats. This led to giving the search for woodland species the most priority, because the potentially rare species were more likely in this habitat, and because we were interested in the effect of woodland size on the occurrence of certain neotropical migrants. We decided to simply count all birds seen and/or heard as we walked through the study areas. With these data we could determine the birds seen per party hour, much like is often done when analyzing Christmas Bird Count data. Recognizing that the ease of detection of species varies, we could at least estimate the relative abundance of various species.

We tried to confirm nesting for each species, although we spent most of the time trying to find birds rather than to find nests. Criteria for confirmed, probable, and possible nesting were the same as used on Iowa breeding atlas studies. Excluded from the study are late spring migrants (warblers, shorebirds, etc.), lingering birds (ducks, gulls), and early fall migrants (shorebirds). In some cases, it was not possible to distinguish among late migrants, lingering or lost birds, unmated birds, and breeding birds. Specific instances will be mentioned under the species accounts.

The study area comprised all public lands near the Coralville Reservoir, which is located along the Iowa River in Johnson County (Figures 1 and 2). The reservoir was filled in 1959. From the dam, which is north of Iowa City, the reservoir extends north past Lake Macbride and then turns west. We will refer to the area west of Highway 965 (and Interstate 380) as the western portion. Most of the lower (eastern) part is managed by the Corps of Engineers and consists of densely wooded bluffs. Macbride Nature Recreation Area is federal land leased to the University of Iowa. Lake Macbride State Park, which borders the reservoir, is managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Most of the area west of Highway 965 is Hawkeye Wildlife Area, which is federal land managed by the DNR. Adjacent state areas include Swan Lake (a natural marsh and Public Hunting Area), Hanging Rock Woods (a wooded ridge recently acquired by the state), and Williams Prairie (a natural prairie owned by The Nature Conservancy). The Hawkeye Wildlife Area is bordered by

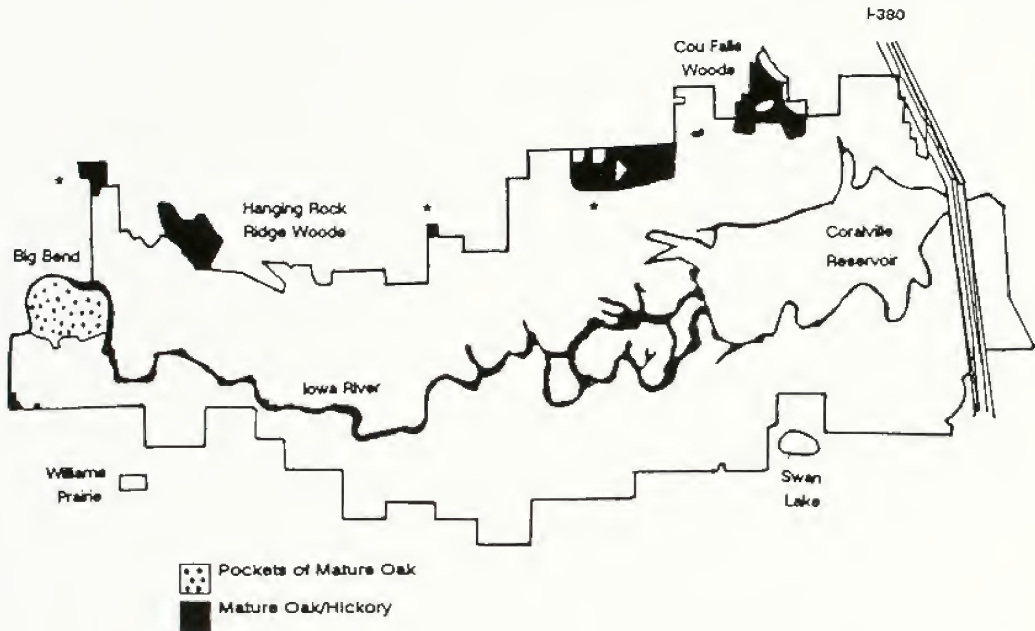


Figure 1. Coralville Reservoir area west of Interstate 380 (reduced 70% compared to map of east side of area).

wooded bluffs on the north and sandy-soiled lowlands to the south. It is greatly affected by water levels of the reservoir, and was mostly under water in 1991 and 1993.

We divided the study area into 32 areas and targeted each for intensive study in one of the four years (1991 to 1994) of this project. The planned years for coverage of some areas were shifted to accommodate for the flooding in 1991 and 1993. Copies of high-altitude aerial photos and topographic maps were prepared for use in the field, and additional aerial photos were taken by Kent from a plane piloted by Dick Tetrault. Woodland sizes were determined from topographic maps and aerial photos. The plant and soil composition of these tracts, including size and type of trees present, was available from recent surveys conducted by the Corps of Engineers. The computer-generated map, which shows oak-hickory woods with trees greater than 12 inches in diameter, other wooded areas, and non-wooded areas, was provided by the Corps (Kevin Porteck and Walsh).

Kent, who had birded this area for many years extending back to before the dam was built, still found many locations that he was unaware of or had not explored. We were able to cover 24 of the areas well. Some of the areas covered briefly or not at all

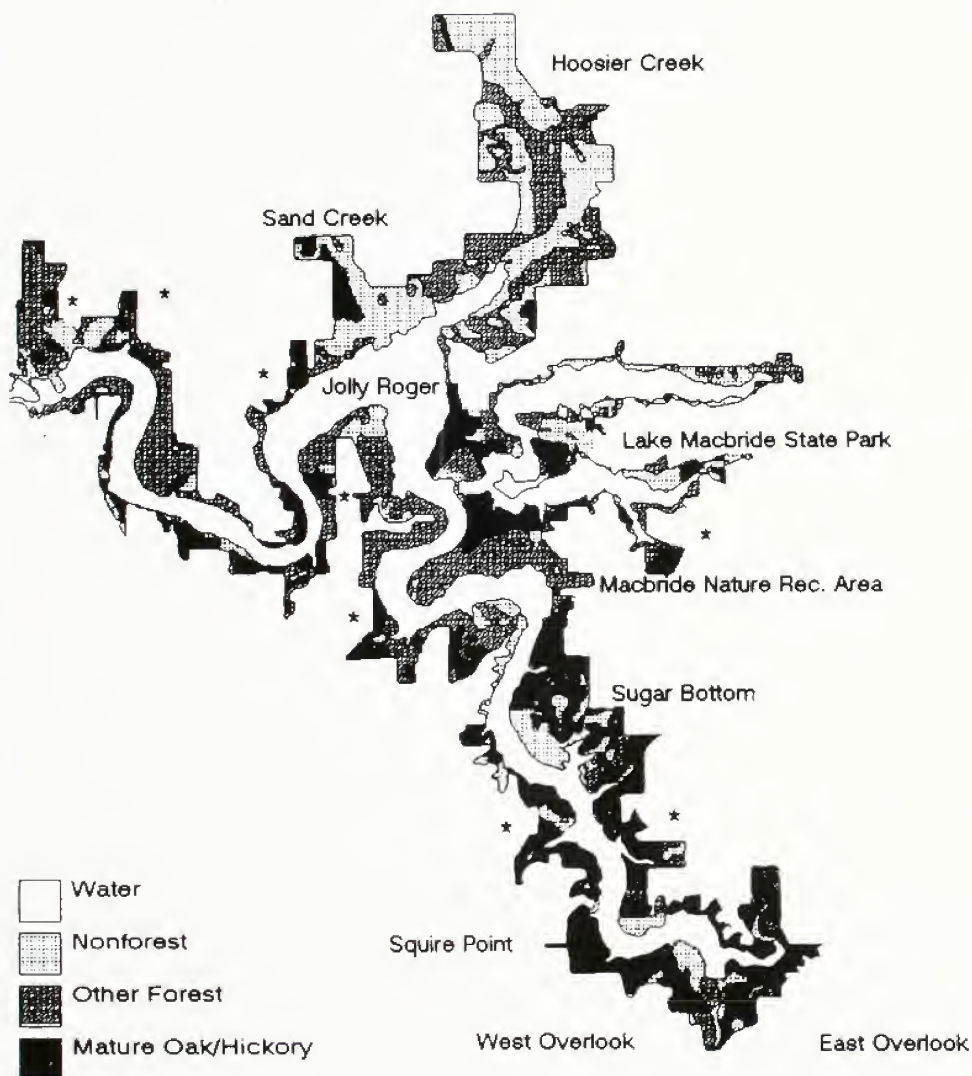


Figure 2. Coralville Reservoir area east of Interstate 380. Large wooded tracts are labeled; small ones are designated by an asterisk.

were thin strips along the reservoir near housing developments and areas that were remote and difficult to access, especially the vast bottom lands in the western portion that are in the flood plain.

As the study progressed we identified nine large (100 to 200 acres), relatively unbroken, oak-hickory tracts for intensive study. These areas are shown on the map and in Table 2 as follows: (1) West Overlook, (2) Squire Point, (3) East Overlook, (4) northwest part of Sugar Bottom, (5) Macbride Nature Recreation Area including the adjacent south edge of Lake Macbride State Park, (6) northwest portion of Lake Macbride State Park, (7) Sand Creek woods, (8) Cou Falls woods, and (9) Hanging Rock Woods. We also identified 11 smaller oak-hickory tracts ranging from about 25 to 75 acres, which are indicated on the map by an "***".

Participants in this study were entirely volunteers. The ability level varied among individuals and over time. During the first three years we held several evening sessions at which emphasis was placed on learning bird songs. Recordings of bird songs made in the field during the project were used during these evening sessions. By the end of the project several of the volunteers who had started as beginners had mastered the songs of the regularly occurring species. Field trips were scheduled each weekend day and holiday from May 20 to July 15. They started on location at 6:00 a.m. and lasted from two to four hours. If enough people appeared, the group was divided into more than one party to cover different areas. We tried to cover the areas as intensively as possible, but we often followed existing paths when present and some areas were poorly covered because of limitations of access. Participants were also encouraged to cover areas on their own. A number of such trips were made by Edwards, Kent, and Margrieta Delle. Six evening forays were made to detect nocturnal species, and we received reports from Corps of Engineers personnel who were on night duty at camping areas.

Of the 476 party-hours spent in the field, 297 (62%) involved more than one observer (average 2.7) and 179 (38%) involved single observers. The following individuals contributed more than 10 hours of field work to the project: Tom Kent (197), Chris Edwards (130), Margrieta Delle (85), Gene Walsh (84), Mike Parker (60), Barbara Beaumont (50), Rick Hollis (47), Jean Allgood (46), Ed Allgood (45), Jonni Ellsworth (42), Rosemarie Petzold (38), Jim Fuller (35), Julie Englander (33), Judy Whetstine (29), Dick Tetrault (14), Doug Jones (11), Dave Conrads (11), Carol Thompson (11), and Randy Pinkston (11). Twenty-three others contributed 1 to 9 hours. Rick Hollis, Carol Thompson, Margrieta Delle, Ed Allgood, Dave Conrads (Macbride Nature Recreation Area), and Tim Thompson (DNR) gave invaluable assistance with planning, logistics, and publicity. The Corps of Engineers provided meeting space, supplies, maps, and general support.

A field recording form was created to record numbers of all species, evidence of nesting, area covered, and start and finish times. The data were entered into a computer database for sorting and analysis.

RESULTS

For purposes of comparison, we compiled the data from the two major habitat areas, which will be referred to as the lowlands (areas west of Highway 965 and south of the Iowa River) and the wooded bluffs (all other areas). Table 1 shows the relative frequency of species on the wooded bluffs (water birds excluded) with more than 0.15 birds per party-hour. For comparison, the numbers in the most intensively covered large wooded tract (Macbride Nature Recreation Area including the south edge of Lake Macbride), the lowlands, and the total of all areas are included.

Table 1. Birds Per Party-Hour for Various Areas

| | Wooded Bluffs | Macbride N.R.A. | Lowlands | All Areas |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|
| Party-Hours | 331 | 74 | 77 | 408 |
| House Wren | 3.29 | 4.02 | 2.18 | 3.08 |
| Northern Cardinal | 3.07 | 3.31 | 1.69 | 2.81 |
| American Crow | 2.07 | 2.33 | 1.50 | 1.96 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 2.00 | 2.77 | 0.79 | 1.77 |
| Blue Jay | 1.77 | 1.67 | 0.47 | 1.52 |
| American Robin | 1.58 | 1.92 | 1.30 | 1.53 |
| Gray Catbird | 1.56 | 0.88 | 1.14 | 1.48 |
| Indigo Bunting | 1.51 | 1.46 | 1.54 | 1.52 |
| American Redstart | 1.44 | 2.21 | 0.01 | 1.19 |
| Northern Oriole | 1.38 | 1.51 | 1.05 | 1.32 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 1.38 | 0.27 | 9.87 | 2.99 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 1.31 | 2.01 | 0.22 | 1.11 |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 1.23 | 1.16 | 0.34 | 1.06 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 1.22 | 1.24 | 0.04 | 1.00 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 1.15 | 1.15 | 1.69 | 1.25 |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 1.07 | 0.94 | 0.42 | 0.95 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1.05 | 1.05 | 0.21 | 0.89 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 1.02 | 0.93 | 0.36 | 0.90 |
| American Goldfinch | 0.93 | 0.62 | 1.62 | 1.06 |
| Ovenbird | 0.92 | 1.38 | 0.01 | 0.75 |
| Common Grackle | 0.84 | 0.32 | 3.14 | 1.27 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 0.80 | 0.62 | 0.69 | 0.78 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 0.78 | 1.00 | 0.54 | 0.74 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 0.75 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.70 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 0.70 | 0.63 | 0.69 | 0.70 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 0.70 | 0.76 | 0.26 | 0.62 |
| Mourning Dove | 0.64 | 0.31 | 2.15 | 0.93 |
| European Starling | 0.58 | 0.23 | 15.37 | 3.37 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 0.57 | 0.76 | 0.10 | 0.49 |
| Northern Flicker | 0.54 | 0.53 | 0.38 | 0.51 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 0.50 | 0.19 | 1.40 | 0.67 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 0.47 | 0.57 | 0.01 | 0.38 |
| Field Sparrow | 0.47 | 0.50 | 0.35 | 0.45 |
| Wood Thrush | 0.46 | 0.42 | 0.03 | 0.38 |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | 0.43 | 0.32 | 0.01 | 0.35 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 0.42 | 0.47 | 0.08 | 0.36 |
| Turkey Vulture | 0.41 | 0.03 | 0.21 | 0.38 |
| Warbling Vireo | 0.39 | 0.03 | 0.09 | 0.34 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 0.38 | 0.34 | 0.39 | 0.38 |
| House Sparrow | 0.31 | 0.04 | 1.82 | 0.60 |
| Barn Swallow | 0.26 | 0.20 | 1.83 | 0.56 |
| Song Sparrow | 0.24 | 0.08 | 1.57 | 0.50 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.17 | 0.21 |
| Wild Turkey | 0.22 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.20 |
| Chimney Swift | 0.18 | 0.27 | 0.19 | 0.18 |
| Brown Thrasher | 0.17 | 0.19 | 0.56 | 0.24 |
| Eastern Kingbird | 0.16 | 0.11 | 0.43 | 0.21 |

Table 2. Distribution of Selected Migrant Species

| Areas* | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | S | L |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| Black-billed Cuckoo | - | - | - | - | + | + | - | + | - | 7 | + |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 9 | + |
| Common Nighthawk | + | - | - | + | + | - | - | - | - | 1 | + |
| Whip-poor-will | - | - | - | + | + | - | + | - | - | 1 | + |
| Chimney Swift | + | - | + | - | + | + | - | + | - | 4 | + |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | - | - | + | - | + | + | - | + | - | 3 | - |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 10 | + |
| Acadian Flycatcher | - | - | - | - | + | - | + | - | + | 3 | - |
| Willow Flycatcher | - | - | - | - | + | - | + | - | - | - | + |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 10 | + |
| Eastern Kingbird | + | + | - | + | + | + | - | - | - | 8 | + |
| Barn Swallow | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 6 | + |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | + | + | + | - | + | + | + | + | + | 7 | + |
| Veery | - | - | + | - | - | - | - | + | - | 3 | - |
| Wood Thrush | + | + | - | + | + | + | + | + | + | 9 | + |
| Bell's Vireo | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | + |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 10 | + |
| Warbling Vireo | + | - | + | + | + | - | + | + | - | 6 | + |
| Red-eyed Vireo | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 11 | + |
| Blue-winged Warbler | + | - | + | + | + | - | + | - | - | 4 | - |
| Yellow Warbler | - | - | - | - | + | + | + | + | - | 6 | + |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | - | - | - | - | - | + | - | - | - | 1 | + |
| Cerulean Warbler | + | - | - | - | + | - | + | - | + | 1 | - |
| American Redstart | + | - | - | + | + | + | + | + | + | 9 | + |
| Prothonotary Warbler | - | - | - | - | + | - | - | - | + | 1 | + |
| Ovenbird | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 10 | + |
| Kentucky Warbler | - | - | - | - | - | - | + | + | + | - | - |
| Common Yellowthroat | - | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 10 | + |
| Scarlet Tanager | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 9 | + |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 11 | + |
| Indigo Bunting | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 11 | + |
| Dickcissel | - | - | - | - | + | - | + | - | - | 4 | + |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | + | + | + | + | + | - | + | + | + | 11 | + |
| Bobolink | - | - | - | - | + | - | + | - | - | 2 | + |
| Northern Oriole | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 10 | + |

* 1-9 = large woods; S = 11 smaller woods; L = lowlands (see text for definitions)

House Wren and Northern Cardinal were the most abundant species in the wooded bluffs. Based on all areas, European Starling and Red-winged Blackbird were most frequent; however, the starling counts were greatly affected by some large flocks near Swan Lake late in the nesting season, and red-wings were abundant in the lowlands and scarce in the deep woods. In contrast, Indigo Bunting counts did not appear to vary with habitat (Table 1). Species that were rarely found in the lowlands were American Redstart, Tufted Titmouse, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, and Rufous-sided Towhee. See species accounts below for other comparisons.

Table 2 shows the distribution of selected species, mostly neotropical migrants, in the 9 large oak-hickory tracts, 11 smaller oak-hickory tracts, and in the lowland area west of Highway 965 and south of the Iowa River. We were impressed by the wide distribution of some of our target species (Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, and Rufous-sided Towhee). These species were found in almost all of the large wooded tracts and in most of the smaller tracts in spite of less intensive coverage of the smaller tracts. Other species, especially those that prefer woodland edge or water areas, were less evenly distributed (Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat. Rare woodland species that were found in more than one location included Acadian Flycatcher, Veery, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler.

Of the 118 potential nesting species encountered, their nesting status during this study was as follows: 69 confirmed (**), 29 probable (*), and 20 possible (no mark). Historical evidence of nesting is included when appropriate.

Pied-billed Grebe:** The only location was Swan Lake, where five family groups were found in both 1991 and 1992. Historically, this species has nested at Swan Lake when water conditions were favorable (Kent 1959, 1960b).

Double-crested Cormorant:** Nests in the few remaining dead trees west of Highway 965 were recorded in 1991 (10) and in 1994 (7). We could see cormorants standing on or near the nests, but could not determine how many nests were active or how many young were present. Over the study period, counts of up to 17 birds were recorded in the area or at other water areas such as Swan Lake or Lake Macbride; however, on 14 July 1991, 100 birds were present in the nesting area. Historically, nesting was first noted in 1966 (Kent 1966).

Great Blue Heron:** One large and 62 smaller heron nests were counted in the Big Bend Area in 1993 and 1994. Flooding prevented access to this area later in 1993, and in early May 1994 a few herons landed on or near nests, but later the nests appeared to be falling apart and unoccupied. This species was observed in 18 areas, usually in small numbers flying over or feeding. The peak number was 167 on 30 May 1992 near Babcock Access. There are many areas where great blues could be nesting without our having detected them.

Great Egret: Up to six were present in the Hawkeye Wildlife Area in May and June 1992. This species is common in spring and especially in fall, and a few have been present in summer in years prior to this study. Finding an active heronry is the key to determining the nesting status of this species.

Green Heron*: This species was found in 11 areas. We did not make a specific attempt to find nests or young. Historically, nests have been found at Swan Lake (Kent 1959).

Canada Goose:** This species was found in 13 areas with confirmed nesting in 4.

Wood Duck:** This species was found in 17 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. The high count was 50 in five families on 20 June 1992 at Swan Lake.

Mallard:** This species was found in 17 areas with confirmed nesting in 5. The peak count of 100 comprised males flocked on Hawkeye Wildlife Area on 7 June 1992.

Blue-winged Teal:** A maximum of six were found in the Swan Lake area in 1991 and 1992. The only confirmed nesting was a brood of 15 half-sized birds on a

private pond two miles south of Swan Lake. Based on past experience in the area, it seems likely that we did not adequately search for this species in the marshy areas of the Hawkeye Wildlife Area. Flocks of small puddle ducks were observed in August after the study period.

Hooded Merganser: A female was at Swan Lake on 7 June 1991, and two females were there on 7 June 1992. Historically, young were seen at Hawkeye Wildlife Area in 1960 (Kent 1960b) and Swan Lake in 1985 (IBL 55:89).

Other ducks: Other species observed but assumed to be non-breeding lingerers include Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, and Ruddy Duck.

Turkey Vulture*: Birds were observed over 17 areas with a high count of 25 near the dam on 28 June 1994. We assume that some of these birds nest in the area.

Osprey: Singles were reported on 9 July 1991 at Macbride Nature Recreation Area and on 5 June 1993 at Hoosier Creek. Also in 1993, we had oral reports that birds were present at Hoosier Creek all summer and that two adults and two immatures were at Lake Macbride during the summer (exact date not noted). In 1990, birds were seen in the area in June and July (IBL 60:120). The above data suggest the possibility of nesting, although there are no proven nesting records for Iowa.

Bald Eagle: Adults were seen near the dam on 28 May 1991 and at Hawkeye Wildlife Area on 30 May 1992; two immatures were at the latter location on 14 June 1992. During these years there was a known nest along the Iowa River a few miles west of our study area in Iowa County.

Cooper's Hawk:** At Macbride Nature Recreation Area, an adult was near the bird blind on 25 June 1991, one was screaming west of the sailboat dock area on 13 July 1991, a nest was found on 11 May 1993, and an adult was observed on 27 June 1993.

Broad-winged Hawk:** One was on a nest on private property near the reservoir on the road to Jolly Roger on 11 May 1993. A juvenile was seen two miles south of the dam on 2 August 1993 (IBL 64:12).

Red-tailed Hawk:** Individuals were seen in 14 areas, and two nests with young were found.

American Kestrel: The only two observations were from roads on the north and south sides of the Hawkeye Wildlife Area. This species is known to nest to the south of the study area.

Ring-necked Pheasant:** This species was found in 11 areas with confirmed nesting in 3.

Wild Turkey:** This species was found in 14 areas with confirmed nesting in 7.

Northern Bobwhite*: This species was found in 5 areas without confirmation of nesting. In past years this species was plentiful in the area with confirmed nesting.

Common Moorhen: One was at Swan Lake early in the morning of 14 June 1992, but was not seen on numerous other trips to the lake. This is a strange date for a migrant. This species nested at Swan Lake in 1951 and 1952 (F. W. Kent 1952a, T. Kent 1952).

American Coot:** The only location was Swan Lake, where nests and young were observed in 1991 and 1992. This species has bred intermittently at Swan Lake, depending on water conditions. Nests were photographed in 1959 (Kent 1959, 1960a).

Killdeer:** This species was found in 14 areas with confirmed nesting in 3.

- Spotted Sandpiper***: This species was found in 10 areas, including family groups. No nest or downy young were found for this known summer resident species.
- American Woodcock***: Displaying males were found in 6 areas. We did not systematically search all areas for this presumably common species.
- Wilson's Phalarope****: A pair was found at Sand Point on 29 May 1992. A very agitated male defended a limited area there on 7, 14, and 27 June. On 11 July he exhibited similar behavior about a mile west at Babcock Access. No nest or young were located, but were presumed to be present.
- Rock Dove***: This species was observed in 4 areas. No attempt to find more birds or nests was undertaken.
- Mourning Dove****: This species was found in 23 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. It was much more common in lowland areas than on wooded bluffs (Table 1). Later in the summer, after the study period, flocks of 100 or more were present in the lowland areas, especially near Babcock Access.
- Black-billed Cuckoo****: This species was found in 11 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. A total of 21 birds were recorded compared to 134 Yellow-billed Cuckoos. This species was more likely to be found in open areas than large wooded tracts (Table 2).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo***: This species was found in 23 areas without confirmed nesting. No habitat preference was detected (Table 1).
- Eastern Screech-Owl**: Only one was heard. There was no response to tapes on our limited night surveys at locations where we typically find them. It would take a lot of effort to determine the status of this species in the study area.
- Great Horned Owl***: This species was encountered in 7 areas without finding a nest or young. Our limited night surveys failed to find this species in areas where we normally hear it.
- Barred Owl****: This species was encountered in 13 areas, and one nest was found.
- Common Nighthawk***: This species was found in 6 areas without any effort to look for it.
- Whip-poor-will***: This species was found in 6 areas during nocturnal surveys and monitoring of campgrounds by Corps personnel. It was found in bottom land hardwood-wetland complexes near the intersection of Greencastle Ave. and Swan Lake Road, as well as on wooded bluffs.
- Chimney Swift***: This species was seen in 11 areas without our knowing how to find a nest.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird***: This species was found in 9 areas, the most reliable being around the Cottage Reserve area at Lake Macbride.
- Belted Kingfisher***: This species was found in 13 areas without our detecting a nest or young.
- Red-headed Woodpecker****: This species was found in 23 areas with confirmed nesting in 5. It was equally common in wooded bluffs and lowlands (Table 1). Since it has been suggested that Red-headed Woodpeckers are declining, we looked at the ratios of Red-headed to Red-bellied woodpeckers over the four years. The ratio varied from 0.43 to 1.28. The ratio was higher in years that we spent more time in the lowlands where red-bellieds are less common.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker****: This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 6. The number per party-hour in lowlands is about half that for wooded bluffs (Table 1).

- Downy Woodpecker**:** This species was found in 24 areas with confirmed nesting in 8. The number per party-hour was higher in wooded bluffs than in lowlands (Table 1).
- Hairy Woodpecker**:** This species was found in 20 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. No habitat preference was detected (Table 1).
- Northern Flicker**:** This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. It is evenly distributed and slightly less common than Red-bellied, Downy, and Red-headed woodpeckers (Table 1).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** There were six reports of single birds during the study period: at Sand Creek Woods north of Mohawk Road on 25 May 1992, near the dam at Lake Macbride on 26 May 1992, at Sugar Bottom on 20 May 1994, at Hanging Rock Woods on 3 July 1994, and at Big Bend near the old heronry on 1 May and 29 June 1994. Vast areas of remote river bottoms in the western part of the Hawkeye Wildlife Area provide good habitat for this species. Historically, a nest was found at Lake Macbride State Park on 26 May and 7 June 1956 (F. W. Kent notes).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee*:** This species was found in 23 areas without finding a nest or young.
- Acadian Flycatcher**:** One of the most exciting moments of the project occurred on 3 July 1993 at the far end of Hanging Rock Woods where the bluff met the flooded bottom lands when Mike Parker saw a nest at eye level and shortly thereafter one of two Acadian Flycatchers that we had been watching settled down on the nest. One bird had been found at this location on 13 June 1993, and one or two birds were found again at this location on 22 May and 3 July 1994. On 4 June 1994, three birds were heard at Macbride Nature Recreation Area, and one bird was there on 26 June. Other sightings of this species were of single birds that could not be relocated on subsequent visits: 25 May 1991 at Macbride Nature Recreation Area, 27 May 1991 at McAllister Creek woods, 21 May 1994 at Sherwood Forest, 25 May 1994 at Baxter woods, and 30 May 1994 at Sand Creek woods. This species was not previously known to be a summer resident in the area, although it has been found in the Amana Woods less than five miles to the west.
- Willow Flycatcher*:** Regular locations before and during the study include James Ave. north of Swan Lake Road, around the marshy areas northeast of Swan Lake, and Williams Prairie. Other individual sightings, possibly migrants, were at Lake Macbride on 23 May 1992, at Sand Creek on 31 May 1993, at Macbride Nature Recreation Area on 4 June 1994, and at Big Bend on 11 June 1994.
- Least Flycatcher*:** Up to two territorial birds were northeast of Swan Lake from 24 May to 27 June 1992. They were in the willows at the sandy edge of the flood plain. We know of no previous summer records for this species in the county.
- Eastern Phoebe**:** This species was found in 6 areas with confirmed nesting in 1.
- Great Crested Flycatcher**:** This species was found in 23 areas with confirmed nesting in 4. A few were found in the lowlands, but most were in the wooded bluffs (Table 1).
- Eastern Kingbird**:** This species was found in 17 areas with confirmed nesting in 2.
- Horned Lark**:** This species was found in 3 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. It occurs on the cultivated areas of the Hawkeye Wildlife Area and to the south of there.

- Purple Martin**:** The only location for this species was Lake Macbride with occupied nest houses in an adjacent residential area.
- Tree Swallow**:** This species was found in 9 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. The high count was 25 at Swan Lake on 13 July 1991; no more than 6 were seen at other areas. This species was more common before most of the dead trees in the Hawkeye Wildlife Area fell down.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow*:** 10 or fewer were seen in 8 areas without finding nest holes.
- Bank Swallow:** Up to 2 were present in 4 areas. A nesting colony is present on Highway 6 just into Iowa County and about three miles southwest of the west end of the study area.
- Cliff Swallow**:** This species was seen in 9 areas, but only two nesting colonies are known. On 21 July 1991, 138 nests were counted on Mehaffey Bridge, and on 21 June 1991, 15 nests were counted on the Highway 965 bridge (more were present, but not visible).
- Barn Swallow**:** This species was seen in 15 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. Undoubtedly more nests could have been found with a little effort.
- Blue Jay**:** This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. More were encountered per party-hour on wooded bluffs than in the lowlands (Table 1).
- American Crow**:** This species was found in 24 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. It was the fourth most common species on wooded bluffs and the fifth most common overall (Table 1).
- Black-capped Chickadee**:** This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 6. We encountered more chickadees per party-hour on wooded bluffs than in lowlands (Table 1).
- Tufted Titmouse**:** This species was found in 22 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. Only two birds were found in the lowlands.
- White-breasted Nuthatch**:** This species was found in 23 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. Very few were encountered in the lowlands.
- Brown Creeper:** On 9 May 1994, Edwards found two in the river bottom forest of the Big Bend area. This seemed like a late date for a winter resident not known to nest in Johnson County. On 3 July 1994, Edwards and Kent found another bird in the river bottoms at the end of Hanging Rock Woods, which is across the river and less than a mile from the first location.
- Carolina Wren*:** Birds were encountered once at Macbride Nature Recreation Area, along the south edge of Lake Macbride, on the road to Jolly Roger, and at Hanging Rock Woods, and twice on the west side of Lake Macbride.
- House Wren**:** This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 7. It was the most abundant species on the wooded bluffs and not far behind in the lowlands (Table 1).
- Sedge Wren:** The only location was Williams Prairie, where four were singing on 4 July 1994. It had been found at this location for many years prior to the study.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**:** This species was found in 17 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. It was widespread in wooded areas.
- Eastern Bluebird**:** This species was found in 15 areas with confirmed nesting in 7.
- Veery*:** A pair at East Overlook on 24 May and 4 June 1993 exhibited courtship behavior and responded to a tape, but could not be relocated on 12 June. A bird was singing on territory in Sherwood Forest on 25 May, 21 June, and 25 June 1994. Single records at 6 areas from 21 to 28 May could have been migrants.

- Wood Thrush**:** This species was found in 17 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. It was widespread in large and medium-sized oak-hickory woods and only found once in lowlands (Table 2). Its frequency and distribution were similar to Scarlet Tanager.
- American Robin**:** This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 7.
- Gray Catbird**:** This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 4. It was as common as American Robin, and both species were widespread but most frequent in woodland edge habitat.
- Brown Thrasher**:** This species was found in 17 areas with confirmed nesting in 4. It was surprisingly uncommon in woodland edge areas. It is more common in the farmlands to the south of the study area.
- Cedar Waxwing**:** This species was found in 17 areas with nest building on 21 June 1993 and a completed nest on 2 July 1993 at two locations at Lake Macbride, where this species was consistently present. This species was more frequent than we had expected.
- Loggerhead Shrike:** The only sightings were outside the area on James Ave. one-half mile south of the Old Headquarters on 4 July 1991 and on North Liberty Road near the Big Buck Area on 7 July 1991. Historically, it nested in the farmlands to the south of Hawkeye Wildlife Area.
- European Starling**:** This species was found in 20 areas with confirmed nesting in 4. It was the most frequent species overall, but this dubious honor was achieved because of flocks of 200 to 555 birds on 14 and 27 June and 4 July 1992 in the Swan Lake area. Its frequency in wooded bluffs was surprisingly low (Table 1).
- White-eyed Vireo:** The only sighting was on 30 May 1994 at Sand Creek woods north of Mohawk Road. This species has nested at Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City (IBL 46:115, 47:146) and probably in the river bottoms south of Iowa City (Kent 1958b).
- Bell's Vireo:** In 1991 and 1992 birds were found at several locations from James Ave. to Swan Lake. They were also at Williams Prairie in 1991 and 1994. They have been found in the Hawkeye Wildlife Area for many years, and at least one nest has been found (Kent 1958b).
- Yellow-throated Vireo**:** This species was found in 22 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. It was outnumbered by Red-eyed Vireo by 3:1, but was more common in edge habitat than red-eyes.
- Warbling Vireo**:** This species was found in 16 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. It was about as common as yellow-throated, but much more selectively distributed in edge habitat near water.
- Red-eyed Vireo**:** This species was found in 21 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. Its frequency and distribution was similar to Great Crested Flycatcher.
- Blue-winged Warbler*:** This species was found in 7 areas without confirmation of nesting. More might have been found if we had spent more time searching the woodland edge habitat of this species. Historically, a pair was photographed at a nest at Lake Macbride State Park on 17 June 1950 (Kent and Kent 1975, T. Kent notes).
- Northern Parula:** This species was discovered in sycamore trees along the parking lot northwest of the beach at Lake Macbride on 30 May 1992. As many as three territorial males and one female were seen up to 3 July. In 1993, at least one was observed on 28 May and 5 and 19 June across the lake in sycamores near the

Cottage Reserve area. We are not aware of previous summer records for this species in Johnson County.

Yellow Warbler:** This species was found in 13 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. It was uncommon in the lowlands and rare on the wooded bluffs (Table 1).

Yellow-throated Warbler*: On 27 June 1993, a male was singing continuously from the sycamores in the parking lot at Lake Macbride where the Northern Parulas had been the year before, but was gone later in the day and not seen again. In 1994, one or two were present across the lake at the other sycamore location from 28 June to 11 July. Much farther west in a few sycamores in bottom-land woods at Big Bend, a male sang from a tree containing old heron nests on 3, 9, and 29 May and 29 June 1994. Another pair was about one-quarter mile to the west on 3 May 1994. We know of no other records of this species for Johnson County, but they could have been present at these locations for many years without being detected.

Prairie Warbler: On 4 and 5 June 1994, a male was singing on the same hillside at Macbride Nature Recreation Area where the first county record bird was found on 25 May 1977 (IBL 47:61). A male, presumably the same bird, was singing on a hillside south of the sailboat storage area at Lake Macbride on 29 June.

Cerulean Warbler*: This species was found at 5 areas without confirmation of nesting. The most consistent location was at Macbride Nature Recreation Area, where up to four birds were found each year. Others were found at the northwest woods at Sand Creek in 1992 and 1993, at Hanging Rock Woods in 1993 and 1994, at West Overlook in 1993, and at Sherwood Forest in 1994.

American Redstart:** This species was found in 17 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. It was somewhat unevenly distributed in wooded areas with large numbers at Macbride Nature Recreation Area and very few in the lowlands.

Prothonotary Warbler:** This species was found in 4 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. Nests were found along the south shore of Lake Macbride in 1993 and 1994, and at an oxbow at Big Bend in 1994. Other locations were the north arm of Lake Macbride and in the river bottoms beyond Hanging Rock Woods. Historically, this species has nested in the oxbows of Hawkeye Wildlife Area (Kent and Vane 1958). We did not cover all of these areas thoroughly.

Ovenbird:** This species was found in 18 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. This species was nearly as common as Red-bellied Woodpecker on the wooded Bluffs, but only one was found in the lowlands (Table 1).

Louisiana Waterthrush:** One was found by Edwards at Macbride Nature Recreation Area on 9 June 1993, and two adults and at least one fledgling being fed were seen on 21, 22, and 27 June. We know of no previous nesting records for the county, but they are present less than five miles to the west of the study area in the Amana Woods.

Kentucky Warbler*: A male was singing at Cou Falls woods on 26 May 1991, and a female was scolding at the same area on 14 July. A territorial male was at the lower part of Sand Creek Woods on 25 May 1992 and 3 July 1993. Up to five were heard at Hanging Rock Woods on several occasions in 1993 and 1994. None were found at Squire Point where they had been present in 1990 (J. Fuller, T. Kent).

Common Yellowthroat:** This species was found in 22 areas with confirmed nesting in 2. Although widespread, this species was more common in the lowlands than on the wooded bluffs (Table 1).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One was heard on the far side of the northwest woods at Sand Creek on 21 June 1992. Another was northeast of Swan Lake on 4 July 1992. A third was at Big Bend near the old heronry on 29 June 1994. Previous known summer locations in the county include river bottoms south of Iowa City (Kent 1958b), Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City, and the Williams Prairie area. We know of no confirmed nesting.

Scarlet Tanager*: This species was found in 17 areas without confirmation of nesting. Tanagers were found in all of the large wooded tracts and most of the smaller ones, but only one was found in the lowlands (Table 2). Their frequency and distribution were similar to Wood Thrush.

Northern Cardinal:** This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. It was the second most common species on wooded bluffs and fourth overall.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** This species was found in 24 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. This species was widespread in all areas. Grosbeaks appear to be everywhere early in the nesting season, but their presence later on may be under estimated due to decreased singing.

Indigo Bunting:** This species was found in 25 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. It was the most common and widespread of the neotropical migrants (Table 2).

Dickcissel*: This species was found in 10 areas without confirmation of nesting. It was uncommon, even in lowland areas, but is much more common in the farmlands to the south of Hawkeye Wildlife Area.

Rufous-sided Towhee:** This species was found in 18 areas with confirmed nesting in 4. It was more common than we had anticipated in edge areas of wooded bluffs. Only a few were found in the lowlands.

Chipping Sparrow:** This species was found in 18 areas with confirmed nesting in 6. It was most common near conifers and mowed areas on the wooded bluffs.

Field Sparrow:** This species was found in 20 areas with confirmed nesting in 4. It was widespread in edge habitat.

Vesper Sparrow:** A nest with four eggs was found on 17 June 1991 southwest of Williams Prairie. There were three other single sightings from farmlands at the edge of the study area. This species is regular in the farmlands to the south of Hawkeye Wildlife Area.

Lark Sparrow*: This species was found in 5 areas without confirmation of nesting, although a family group with full-sized juveniles almost qualifies. Locations included farmland west of Hoosier Creek and open areas on the south side of Hawkeye Wildlife Area. There were many sightings in the latter area, where this species has been resident for years.

Grasshopper Sparrow: The only report was from the Williams Prairie area on 17 June 1991. It is regular in the farmlands to the south of the Hawkeye Wildlife Area.

Song Sparrow*: This species was found in 18 areas without confirmation of nesting. It was uncommon on the wooded bluffs and moderately common in the lowlands.

Bobolink*: This species was found in 5 areas without confirmation of nesting. Four of these were single sightings. Up to eight were seen from 29 May to 12 July 1992 in the grassy edge of the reservoir north of Swan Lake, where they were likely nesting.

Red-winged Blackbird:** This species was found in 23 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. It was uncommon near deep woods, moderately common in open

areas, and abundant in the lowlands, making it the second most common species overall.

Eastern Meadowlark:** This species was found in 11 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. It was scarce (about 1 per 10 party-hours). Lake Macbride is the most consistent location.

Western Meadowlark: This species was found in 4 areas without confirmation of nesting. It is much more common in the farmlands around the study area. We did not make any special any effort to find this species.

Yellow-headed Blackbird*: Up to three males were at Swan Lake in 1991 from 25 May to 13 July. A female was seen on 13 July. The only other sightings were single males on 7 June 1992 at Swan Lake and 29 May 1994 at Big Bend Area. More were present at Swan Lake in the summer of 1990 (IBL 60:160) and apparently nested. Historically, this species is an unusual summer visitor in Johnson County (Kent 1959).

Common Grackle:** This species was found in 19 areas with confirmed nesting in 3. It was more common in the lowlands than on wooded bluffs (Table 1).

Brown-headed Cowbird:** This species was found in 24 areas with confirmed eggs or young in 4. It is widespread and possibly more common in the lowlands.

Orchard Oriole:** A pair was feeding a fledgling near the causeway at Lake Macbride on 22 June 1993. Three other sightings were on private property near Big Buck Area on 4 July 1992 (also 1994), on the south side of Lake Macbride on 7 July 1992, and near the entrance to Sugar Bottom on 22 May 1993.

Northern Oriole:** This species was found in 26 areas with confirmed nesting in 10. This neotropical migrant was about as common as Indigo Bunting in the wooded bluffs, but less common in the lowlands (Table 1). They seemed more common early in the nesting period when they were more vocal.

House Finch: Two at Lake Macbride on 23 May 1993 were the only ones found. This species is now a common resident of urban areas, and some are found in rural Johnson County.

American Goldfinch:** This species was found in 22 areas with confirmed nesting in 1. A newly finished nest was 40 feet up in a sycamore tree at Lake Macbride on 3 July 1994. Most nest in late summer, after our study period. Goldfinches were widespread but more common in the lowlands (Table 1).

House Sparrow:** This species was found in 16 areas with confirmed nesting in 4. It was uncommon in the deep woods, and we did not try to run up big numbers by looking around areas inhabited by humans.

DISCUSSION

Any attempt to count the breeding birds in an area is frustrating due to many methodological problems. These include human variables, such as the number of observers and amount of time available, skill of observers, and difficulty in accessing some areas, and avian variables, such as type of habitat, secretiveness, loudness and frequency of song, and variability of activity during the day and during the season. In spite of these difficulties, the data collected are real and provide useful information as long as these variables are taken into consideration.

The two most outstanding results of this study were finding species not previously known to be present and obtaining a good idea of the relative frequency of the more common species. Species that we did not previously know to be present during the summer included Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Wilson's Phalarope, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Veery, White-eyed Vireo, Northern

Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Using birds per party-hour as a measure of frequency has several advantages: (1) Little training is needed in survey technique; (2) The results are not affected greatly by the survey route or repeated coverage of the same area; (3) Quantitative data can be collected while searching for rare species; (4) Differences in observer speed do not change the relative frequency of species; and (5) Human and avian variables are likely to be similar in future studies, so that it may be possible to detect gross changes in relative frequency. The number of birds per party hour is a less reliable measure than relative frequency because it is affected by number of observers, area surveyed per hour, and habitat mix. For example, the difference in birds per-party hour for Red-bellied Woodpecker on wooded bluffs versus lowlands may give a false impression of the frequency in river-bottom woods, because most of the time in the lowlands was spent in open areas. The relative frequency for Red-bellied versus Red-headed woodpeckers, however, clearly indicates that Red-headed is relatively less common on wooded bluffs and more common in the combined open and wooded bottom lands of the lowlands.

We overestimated our ability to cover the area in four years. We continued to find new species each year, and it is likely that more could be found with additional effort. We did cover the largest wooded tracts intensively, but the smaller tracts and vast river-bottom areas were only sampled. We made only a limited attempt to find nocturnal species. In spite of these deficiencies, we provide a solid list of nesting species for the area and have a sound knowledge base that will allow us to target future efforts to find rare species.

Several species not found in this study are known to have nested in or near the study area. Least Bitterns nested at Swan Lake from 1949 to 1951 (T. Kent 1951). Ruddy Duck nested at Swan Lake in 1959 and 1960 (Kent 1959, 1960b). Northern Harrier nested at Hawkeye Wildlife Area in 1957 (Kent and Vane 1957) and at Williams Prairie in 1977 (Halmi 1977). King Rail young were seen west of Swan Lake on 1 August 1951 and 2 August 1952 (Kent and Kent 1975, F. W. Kent notes). Upland Sandpiper was regular at two locations one and two miles south of Hawkeye Wildlife Area with young seen on several occasions and one nest found (Kent and Kent 1974). Marsh Wrens were photographed at nests at Swan Lake in 1951 (F. W. Kent 1952b). Northern Mockingbirds were photographed at a nest and another pair was feeding young at Hawkeye Wildlife Area in 1958 (Kent 1958a, F. W. Kent notes).

Species not mentioned above with confirmed evidence of nesting in Johnson County but not the Coralville Reservoir area include Red shouldered Hawk at Iowa City on 3 May 1952 (Dinsmore et. al. 1984, Kent and Kent 1974), Bewick's Wren near Iowa City in 1950 (Kent 1950) and at Hickory Hill Park in May 1981 (IBL 51:68), and Pine Siskin in Iowa City on 14 June 1979 (IBL 49:85).

There are several species not found in this study for which there is strong presumptive evidence of nesting in the study area in previous years. American Bittern was found at Hawkeye Wildlife Area all summer in 1959 (Kent 1959) and on Greencastle Ave. on 9 and 17 June 1960 with an immature bird there on 13 August (Kent 1960b, Kent and Kent 1975). Sora was found on Greencastle Ave. from 4 July to 2 August 1959 (Kent 1959, F. W. Kent notes) and at Swan Lake all summer in 1990 (IBL 60:103). Short-eared Owls were present west of Swan Lake all summer in 1961 and appeared to be carrying food to young (Kent 1961). Henslow's Sparrow was

found west of Swan Lake on 7 and 9 June 1960 (Kent 1960b) and two miles south of Hawkeye Wildlife Area on 20 July 1964 (IBL 34:67, F. W. Kent notes).

Gray Partridge has probably nested in Johnson County. Worm-eating and Hooded warblers have probably nested in the Amana Woods a few miles to the west of the study area.

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211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246; Coralville Lake, RR 2, Box 21, Iowa City, IA 52240; 85 Whitman Avenue, North Liberty, IA 52317

FIELD REPORTS--SUMMER 1994

JAMES J. DINSMORE AND STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

After the floods of 1993, the weather this summer returned to more normal patterns. June started out fairly cool and dry. However, by mid-June, Iowa began receiving a steady series of thunderstorms, relieving concerns about a possible drought. Temperatures also returned to the more normal summertime levels with many days having highs in the low 90s. July continued the pattern of an almost average summer. High temperatures reached the low- to mid-90s on a number of days but for the third summer in succession, there were no reports of temperatures of 100 or greater; the highest was 97 at Hawarden on 14 June. There were the usual thunderstorms scattered across the state but not the heavy rain that we received in 1993. About the only extreme weather of the summer was several cool nights in late July; several reporting stations set all-time lows on 28 July with 42 at Washta the lowest.

Overall, the combination of moderate rainfall and temperatures produced ideal growing conditions, as evidenced by bumper crops of corn and soybeans. With most of the CRP plantings now in their eighth or ninth year, those stands should be sufficiently mature to provide good nesting cover for many grassland species. After the massive amount of sheetwater habitat that was available in 1993, little such habitat was available this year; the southbound shorebird migration was somewhat below average.

UNUSUAL BIRDS

This summer was a bit more exciting than the past several years. Four accidental species were reported: Pacific Loon, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Black Rail, and Laughing Gull. Other good finds included a Prairie Warbler in Johnson County, Brown Creepers at two sites away from the Mississippi River floodplain, and only the second summer report of King Rail since 1988. A Common Snipe nest was the first reported in several years while Canada Warblers were found again in northeastern Iowa, suggesting that they may nest there. Evidence of Barn Owl nests from two counties showed the continued presence of a small breeding population in Iowa.

In the good news department, Sandhill Crane and Great-tailed Grackle showed continued expansion of their Iowa range although no crane nests or young were reported. More Henslow's Sparrows were reported this summer than in any other year in recent memory, while Common Moorhens were also more widely reported than in most years. Among the neotropical migrants, there were more reports of Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager this year than most years. At last count, the number of active Bald Eagle nests was 31, the same as last year. Also, Peregrine Falcons produced young at both Cedar Rapids and Des Moines, continuing the success of this reintroduction program.

With all of the good news, the bad news was more limited. Piping Plovers and Least Terns continued to barely hold on as nesting species near the Missouri River. Only limited evidence of nesting was reported for three marsh species: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Forster's Tern, and Black Tern. Subjectively, it is our impression that they are less common now than they were 15-20 years ago. Similarly, two

neotropical migrants, Veery and Yellow-breasted Chat, have been reported less often than they were a decade ago. Are they disappearing or just underreported?

SPECIES DATA

(* = documented, m. ob. = many observers)

Pacific Loon: 1 in basic plumage at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. on 13 Jul remained to the end of the period (SJD*, JJD*, MPr*, BPr*, BEn, AMJ*, JLF*). This is the first summer report of Pacific Loon in Iowa, and one of few summer records for the Midwest.

Common Loon: 2 in basic plumage that summered at West L. Okoboji (Marty Eby fide SJD), 1 at Badger Creek L. in Madison Co. from 3 to 23 Jul (EuA, EIA), 1 in basic plumage at Pleasant Creek in Linn Co. on 14 Jul (JLF), and another in basic plumage at Crawford Creek Rec. A. in Ida Co. on 20, 27 Jul (PE) were all the reports, somewhat more than most summers.

Pied-billed Grebe: Nesting was noted at Blue L. in Monona Co. (PE), Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), and Goose L. in Clinton Co. (MPr, BPr), all outside its usual Iowa nesting range.

Western Grebe: All reports were from north-central Iowa: 2 at Zirbel Sl. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 11 Jun (RGo), 2 at Rice L. in Worth Co. on 16, 17 Jun (EuA, EIA, JLF), and 1 at Elm L. in Wright Co. on 12 Jul (SJD).

American White Pelican: Continuing the pattern of recent years, pelicans were found throughout the summer, especially in northwestern Iowa. They were also found in eastern Iowa with 75 at Coralville Res. on 29 Jun (THK), 125 there on 16 Jul (SJD, SBG), and 262 at Heron Bend in Lee Co. on 24 Jul. (CE). 600 were at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. on 31 Jul (LAS).

Double-crested Cormorant: The only evidence of breeding was 10 nests at Coralville Res on 19 Jun (THK).

American Bittern: 2 at Trumbull L. on 23 Jun (EuA, EIA) was the only report.

Least Bittern: 1-3 were reported from Cass, Clay, Dickinson, Kossuth, Woodbury, and Wright counties.

Great Blue Heron: The colony near Saylorville Dam had more than 100 nests (BEn).

Great Egret: No one mentioned nesting colonies. By July, post-breeding birds were evident with 66 on 9 Jul at Heron Bend in Lee Co. (SJD) building to 100-105 there on 23, 28 Jul (CE, JLF).

Snowy Egret: 3 adults at Heron Bend on 9 Jul (SJD, details) was the only report.

Little Blue Heron: All the reports were of immature birds: 1 at Heron Bend on 9 Jul (SJD), 1 at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. on 14 Jul (JLF), 1 at Green Island on 18 Jul (SJD), 2-10 at Otter Creek M. from 23-26 Jul (m. ob.), and 2 at Anderson L. on 29, 30 Jul (SJD, DLD).

Cattle Egret: 1-5 were reported in Cass, Des Moines, Fremont, Greene, Kossuth, and Tama counties, far fewer than last year.

Green-backed Heron: 4 juveniles at Otter Creek M. on 24 Jul (AMJ) was the only mention of breeding.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 or 2 were reported in Clinton, Kossuth, Lee, Louisa, and Tama counties. The only evidence of nesting was at Grover L. (NBEn).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: An adult at Nigel Flaming Prairie Pre. in Louisa Co. on 6 Jul (DCD) and single juveniles at Otter Creek M. on 24 Jul (AMJ) and Secret L. in Fremont Co. on 24, 25 Jul (JLF) were all the reports.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck: 1 at Goose L. in Clinton Co. on 17 Jul was present until at least 24 Jul (SJD*, SBG*, PCP*, MPr*, BPr*, JLF*, THK*, PHA*, RIA*, JD*, AMJ*). Only the second report of this species in Iowa, the Records Committee will try to determine whether this is an escapee or the first accepted record for the state.

Mute Swan: A "feral" pair nested at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. (PE), and an adult was at Heron Bend Cons. A. in Lee Co. from 23-30 Jul (CE, JLF). It is not clear if these are "wild" birds which normally are found in Iowa in winter or if they are escapees or recent releases.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 near Union Slough N.W.R. on 12 Jun (MCK), 2 ne of Shenandoah, Page Co. on 30 Jun (DAE), and 1 at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. on 28 Jul (PE) were the only reports.

Snow Goose: Besides the blue-phase bird that remained at Terra L. in Johnston (BEn), several were seen at Dan Green Sl. throughout the summer with as many as 14 (10 blue, 4 snow) there on 31 Jul (LAS). Two white birds were at Blue L. in Monona Co. until 14 Jul (PE), and 1 blue-phase bird was at Yager Sl. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jul (NBEn).

Canada Goose: Canada Geese had a banner year; broods were common to abundant throughout northern Iowa and they continued to occupy additional areas elsewhere in Iowa.

Green-winged Teal: 1-7 were found in Clinton, Hamilton, Hancock, Jackson, and Kossuth counties. The 2 males and 5 females at Green Island on 18 Jul (SJD, SBG) were east of where this species normally is found in summer.

American Black Duck: A male at Ventura M. in Hancock Co. on 13 Jul (SJD) was the only report.

Northern Pintail: 2 pairs at Union Slough N.W.R. in early Jun (MCK), a male at Gordon's M. in Hamilton Co. on 7 Jun (SJD), a male ne of Union Slough N.W.R. on 12 Jun (MCK), and a female at Green Island on 18 Jul (SJD) were all the reports.

Blue-winged Teal: A brood at Blue L. in Monona Co. (PE) was out of the species' usual nesting range.

Northern Shoveler: 3 pairs at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK) and a female at Teig's M. in Story Co. on 5 Jun (SJD) were the only reports.

Gadwall: 2 pairs at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK), a male at McBreen M. in Dickinson Co. on 15 Jun (JJD), and a pair w of Spirit L. on 7 Jul (NBe) were the only reports.

American Wigeon: Singles were at West Hottes L. on 12 Jun (LAS), Dan Green Sl. on 23 Jun (LAS), and Blue L. on 29 Jul (PE).

Canvasback: 2 pairs summered at Union Slough N.W.R.; 1 female had a brood of 8 young (MCK), the third successive year nesting has been reported in Iowa.

Redhead: 2 pairs at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK), a male at Gordon's M. on 7 Jun (SJD), a pair at McBreen M. on 15 Jun (JJD), and a male at Lakin Sl. in Guthrie Co. on 24 Jul (SJD, JSI) were all the reports.

Ring-necked Duck: Pairs at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK), Big Wall L. in Wright Co. on 5 Jun (SJD), and Burns Prairie in Palo Alto Co. on 15 Jun (JJD) and single males at Cardinal M. on 6 Jun (DeC) and Goose L. in Clinton Co. from 17-22 Jul (SJD, SBG, m. ob.) were all the reports.

Lesser Scaup: 4 males and a female at Union Slough N.W.R. on 2 Jun (MCK) and a male that summered at Terra L. (BEn) were the only reports, fewer than most recent years.

Hooded Merganser: Broods were noted at Solon in Johnson Co. (Aaron Basten fide NBe), Nigel Flaming Prairie Pre. in Louisa Co. (THK), Green Island (SJD, SBG), Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. (SJD, SBG), and Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Other reports were 3 females at Teig's M. on 3 Jun (SJD), 7 at Jemmerson Sl. on 12 Jun (LAS), and a female at Maskunky M. in Mahaska Co. on 7 Jul (SJD).

Common Merganser: A female at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. on 3 Jun (JJD) was the only report.

Ruddy Duck: A brood at Blue L. (PE) was the only evidence of nesting. 15 (10 males, 5 females) summered at Union Sl. N.W.R. (MCK).

Turkey Vulture: 5 were near East L. Okoboji on 15 Jun (JJD); their numbers have increased dramatically in the Great Lakes region in the past 5 years.

Osprey: 1 or 2 were found in Cerro Gordo, Fayette, Jefferson, and Polk counties from 17 Jul to the end of the period. One was seen all summer near Iowa City (Elizabeth Blair fide JJD).

Bald Eagle: 32 nests, 23 of them successful, were known to be active in 1994 (BEn), 1 more than in 1993.

Northern Harrier: The only nest was at Volga River State Rec. A. (Darrin Siefken fide SJD) but 1 at Rathbun Res. on 11 Jun (SJD), a female at Blue L. on 22 Jun (EuA, EIA), and 3 birds near Whittenbrier M. in Howard Co. on 21 Jul (SJD, SBG) were suggestive of nesting. Singles in Howard, Mitchell, and Wright counties in late July were more likely early migrants.

Cooper's Hawk: 1 adult on 17, 24 Jul at Lake Ahquabi S.P. acted territorial and may have been near a nest (JSI). Other reports were of 2 adults at Saylorsville Res. on 4 Jun (BEn), an adult at Coralville Res. on 16 Jul (SJD, SBG), an immature at Goose L. in Clinton Co. on 17 Jul (SJD, SBG), and an immature near Froelich in Clayton Co. on 20 Jul (SJD, SBG).

Red-shouldered Hawk: An adult at Dolliver S.P. on 7 Jun (SJD), 1 at Wiese Sl. in Muscatine Co. on 21 Jun (DCD), and nests nw of Sabula in Jackson Co. in mid Jul (1 young bird, Kelly McKay fide PCP) and at Backbone S.P. (3 young, WN) were all the reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: At Yellow Banks P. in Polk Co. there were 2 adults on 18 Jun and 1 adult and 1 immature on 24 Jul (BEn).

Peregrine Falcon: Nests in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids each produced 3 young, continuing the success story of this species reintroduction into Iowa (Ia DNR fide JJD).

Gray Partridge: An adult and 3 young in Johnson Co. (DLD) was the only report; this species' population has declined greatly in recent years.

Chukar: 1 in Davenport on 1 Jun (PCP) and a brood of 10 in Davenport on 25 Jul (J. Decker fide PCP) are the first reported in several years.

Black Rail: 1 reported from northern Iowa in mid Jul will be referred to the Records Committee.

King Rail: 1 or 2 were found at State Line M. in Kossuth Co. from 10 to 17 Jul (MCK, m. ob.), only the second summer report since 1988.

Virginia Rail: Virginia Rails were called common in the Algona area (MCK) and in north-central Iowa (SJD); 18 were found at Big Wall L. on 5 Jun (SJD). Broods were found in early July n of Silver L. in Worth Co. (RGo) and at State Line M. (EuA, EIA).

Purple Gallinule: 1 at Sweet M. was last reported on 14 Jun (Tom Stone fide JJD).

- Common Moorhen:** We received more reports than in the past 4 years combined, much of it generated by the 3 broods at Goose L. in Clinton Co. from 17 to 22 Jul (SJD, SBG, m. ob.). Broods were also found at Lakin Sl. in Guthrie Co. (SJD, JSi), Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. (SJD), Blue L. in Monona Co. (PE), and Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). In addition, 1 or 2 adults were noted at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. (PE), Otter Creek M. (SJD), East Twin L. in Hancock Co. (SJD), and Ventura M. in Hancock Co. (SJD, RGo). Late reports were of 1 on 14 May 1994 at Spring Run (JK) and a brood at Shimon M. in Pocahontas Co. in 1993 (Steve Nomsen fide JJD).
- American Coot:** Nesting coots were much scarcer in NW Iowa than last year (SJD). A pair building a nest at Otter Creek M. on 12 Jun (SJD) was out of its usual Iowa breeding range.
- Sandhill Crane:** 1-6 were seen at Goose L. in Clinton Co. from 17 to 21 Jul (SJD, SBG, m. ob.). In addition, 3 summered at Otter Creek M. (Mike Stegman fide JJD), 2 adults were at Green Island on 18 Jul (SJD, SBG), 1 adult was at Pool Slough in Allamakee Co. on 19 Jul (SJD, SBG), and 3 (at least 2 of them immatures) summered at Sweet M. in Bremer Co. (Darrin Siefken fide SJD). However, none of the reports gave evidence of nesting in 1994. We received two late reports: 4 at Thorpe P. in Winnebago Co. on 13 Apr 1993 (Robert Schwartz fide SJD) and 1 at Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. on 16 Mar (Forrest Fromm fide B. Sheets).
- Black-bellied Plover:** 1 at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. on 1 Jun (SJD) was the last spring bird.
- Semipalmated Plover:** The first migrants were singles on 12 Jul at Elk Creek M. and near Big Wall L. (SJD).
- Piping Plover:** Only one pair nested at IPL Ponds this year, where there were 2 adults and 2 young on 17 Jun (JLF). A pair giving distraction displays at the IPS ponds s of Sioux City on 10 Jul may have been nesting (BFH).
- Killdeer:** 155 at Heron Bend on 9 Jul (SJD) was a large concentration for so early in summer.
- American Avocet:** A male at Saylorville Res. on 31 Jul (SJD) was the only report.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** 3 were a bit early on 6 Jul w of Spirit L. (NBe).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** The last spring bird was 1 on 2 Jun at St. Benedict W.A. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). The first fall arrivals were 6 on 2 Jul at Dan Green Sl. (LAS).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** 1 at Wesley and 2 at St. Benedict W.A., both in Kossuth Co. on 3 Jul (MCK), were the first southbound birds reported. The 29 at Cone M. on 24 Jul (RDe) was the most reported.
- Willet:** 7 at Meredith M. in Winnebago Co. on 12 Jul (SJD) and 1 at Casey Barrow area in Des Moines Co. on 22 Jul (JLF) were the only reports.
- Upland Sandpiper:** Birds were reported from Boone, Cerro Gordo, Dallas, Hancock, Madison, and Wright counties, fewer than most years.
- Ruddy Turnstone:** 1 at Hickory Grove P. in Story Co. on 1 Jun (HZ) was the only report.
- Sanderling:** 1 was at Saylorville Res on 15 Jul (SJD)[ties record earliest].
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** The last spring birds were 8 on 7 Jun at Gordon's M. (SJD).
- Western Sandpiper:** 3 near Blue L. on 23 Jul (PE, details) was the only report.
- Least Sandpiper:** The last spring birds were 2 on 2 Jun at St. Benedict W.A. (MCK). The first fall arrivals were 2 on 3 Jul at Wesley (MCK), and the peak was 50 on 17 Jul at Hickory Grove P. (HZ).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** The last spring birds were 2 on 12 Jun at Union Slough NWR (MCK).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** 2 at Big Creek on 16 Jul (BEn) was the only report.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** 7 at Hickory Grove P. on 1 Jun (HZ) were the last spring birds. The first southbound birds were 2 at St. Benedict W.A. in Kossuth Co. on 3 Jul (MCK); 120 at the same place on 29 Jul (MCK) were the most.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** 2 were near Mallard in Palo Alto Co. on 12 Jun (DH)[record latest]. The first was 1 on 7 Jul at Maskunkya M. in Mahaska Co. (SJD), and the peak was 26 on 23 Jul near Blue L. (PE).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** One in basic plumage on 5 Jun at Big Wall L. (SJD, details) was either a late spring migrant or a summering bird. The first fall arrival was an adult in alternate plumage on 9 Jul at Heron Bend (SJD, details)[3rd earliest].
- Common Snipe:** A nest at Excelsior Fen in Dickinson Co. contained eggs on 17 Jun but was empty on 20 Jun (Mike Lannoo fide NBe). This is the first confirmed snipe nest in Iowa in several years. A late report was of several pairs nesting in SW Emmet Co. in summer 1993. No nest was found, but flightless young were seen (Bob Moats fide SJD).
- American Woodcock:** We received a late report of a brood southwest of Oskaloosa in May 1994 (Tony Wolvers fide JJD).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** 1 near Blue L. on 23 Jul (PE) was the only report.
- Franklin's Gull:** Numerous reports this summer, most from NW and central Iowa. June reports were of 1-14 birds in Dickinson, Hamilton, Kossuth, Pottawattamie, Sac, and Wright counties, except for 63 on 12 Jun at Kettleson Hogsback W.A. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Migrants appeared in late July, with 1 on 22 Jul at Saylorville Res. (SJD, SBG) and a peak of 200 on 31 Jul at Trumbull L. (LAS).

Laughing Gull: 1 was at Keokuk on 8, 9 Jul (SJD*).

Ring-billed Gull: Small numbers were widely reported from across the northern half of the state. Larger numbers were along the Mississippi R. as evidenced by 364 on 18 Jul at Sabula (SJD, SBG) and 163 on 19 Jul at Harper's Ferry (SJD, SBG).

Herring Gull: A first-summer bird at Heron Bend on 9 Jul (SJD) and a second-summer bird at Pool 9 at Harpers Ferry on 19 Jul (SJD, SBG) were the only reports.

Caspian Tern: 1-8 were reported from Appanoose, Jackson, Lee, Louisa, Scott, Story, and Wright counties, about average for summer.

Common Tern: 1 at Big Wall L. on 5 Jun (SJD, details) and 2 at Badger Creek L. in Madison Co. on 11 Jun (EuA, EIA) were the only reports.

Forster's Tern: Nesting was documented at Grover L. and Big Wall L. (SJD). Migrants were evident across the state by late July.

Least Tern: 2-5 were reported from the IPL Ponds; an adult was on a nest there on 24 Jun (JLF). One was at the IPS pond on 16, 22 Jul (BFH).

Black Tern: 57 adults and 10 nests were at Big Wall L. on 5 Jun (SJD). Nesting was also documented at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. and at Grover L. (SJD). Small numbers were reported from Clinton, Hamilton, Jones, Kossuth, Mahaska, Polk, and Winneshiek counties.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 or 2 were found in Cerro Gordo, Fremont, Johnson, Linn, Madison, Polk, and Story counties.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1-4 were found in Allamakee, Benton, Boone, Cerro Gordo, Fremont, Hardin, Jasper, Johnson, Lee, Linn, Madison, Marshall, Polk, Story, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties.

Barn Owl: 2 nests in Taylor Co. and a pair near Adair in Guthrie Co. (BEh) is the most nesting activity reported for several years.

Chuck-will's-widow: Besides 3 found at two sites near Waubonsie S.P. in Fremont Co. on 7 Jun (MPR, BPr), 1 was found in Stephens S.F. in Lucas Co. (JSi).

Whip-poor-will: We received a late report of a nest with an egg in Oskaloosa in May 1993 (Tony Wolvers fide JJD).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1-8 were reported in Allamakee, Clayton, Hardin, Johnson, Story, Webster, and Winneshiek counties. A female was building a nest in Dolliver S.P. in Webster Co. on 7 Jun (SJD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Besides several that summered at Effigy Mounds N.M. in Allamakee Co. (DeC), singles were found s of Bellevue in Jackson Co. on 9 Jun (PCP) and at Coon Creek A. in Winneshiek Co. on 29 Jun (DeC); all were within its Iowa nesting range.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 at Ledges S.P. in Boone Co. on 19 Jun (PHA, RIA) and 2 at Rice L. in Winnebago Co. on 7 Jul (CJF) were at the edge of this species' Iowa range.

Acadian Flycatcher: 1-7 were found in Allamakee, Boone, Hardin, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Lee, Muscatine, Van Buren, and Webster counties, somewhat more than reported most summers.

Willow Flycatcher: A few were found in 17 counties spanning the northern two thirds of Iowa.

Least Flycatcher: Singles at Coralville Res. on 12 Jun (DLD), Highlandville in Winneshiek Co. on 15 Jun (DeC), and Cardinal M. on 21 Jul (DeC, SJD, SBG) were the only reports.

Western Kingbird: 2 broods were noted on the state capitol grounds in Des Moines on 16 Jun (PHA, RIA). One in mid-July at Twelve Mile L. in Emmet Co. (Bob Moats fide SJD) was a bit east of this species' usual range.

Tree Swallow: The only post-breeding flock reported was 440 near Reasnor in Jasper Co. on 31 Jul (GJB).

Bank Swallow: 1,000 were noted in Des Moines Co. on 28 Jul (JLF).

Cliff Swallow: 400+ nests were noted below Saylorville Dam (BEn), and 70 were near Decorah (DeC).

Brown Creeper: Singles were found on Huron Island in Des Moines Co. on 7 Jun (PCP) and at Hawkeye W. A. in Johnson Co. on 3, 23 Jul (THK, CE), and 1 or 2 were found along the North R. in NW Warren Co. on 12 Jun and 15 Jul (JSi). All of these could represent breeding birds.

Carolina Wren: 1 or 2 were found in Clarke, Fremont, Henry, Johnson, Lee, Polk, and Scott counties. One at Lakeside Laboratory in Dickinson Co. on 4, 5 Jul (NBe) was out of the species' usual range.

Sedge Wren: Reported from Cerro Gordo, Johnson, Iowa, Linn, Madison, Polk, Tama, and Winneshiek counties. Several observers called it common this summer.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 15 Jun (RGo) was somewhat out of this species' usual range.

Veery: 1-6 were found in Boone, Hardin, Johnson, Jones, Lucas, Polk, and Van Buren counties, more than were reported in the past several years. One singing at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. on 3 Jun (RCR) was out this species usual Iowa range.

Wood Thrush: 1-3 were found in Allamakee, Benton, Boone, Cerro Gordo, Davis, Fremont, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Johnson, Kossuth, Lee, Muscatine, Polk, Van Buren, Webster, and Winneshiek counties, the most widespread reporting of this species in the past decade.

Northern Mockingbird: 1-4 were reported from Des Moines, Madison, Mahaska, Muscatine, Polk, and Warren (brood) counties, somewhat more than in several years.

Cedar Waxwing: Several observers noted that waxwings were common this summer.

Loggerhead Shrike: Shrikes were reported from Cass, Cerro Gordo, Dallas (brood), Fremont (brood), Grundy, Jasper, Jefferson, Madison, Polk, Story, Tama, and Van Buren counties.

White-eyed Vireo: 1-4 were reported from Des Moines, Lee, and Lucas counties.

Bell's Vireo: 1-4 were reported from Fremont, Greene, Johnson, Jones, Muscatine, Polk, Story, Van Buren, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1-4 were reported from Allamakee, Boone, Hardin, Johnson, Louisa, Polk, Tama, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties.

Blue-winged Warbler: 1-5 were found Cerro Gordo, Johnson, Lee, Lucas, and Winneshiek counties, somewhat more than most summers.

Tennessee Warbler: A male found dead in Algona on 20 Jul (MCK) was very early [2nd earliest].

Northern Parula: 1 or 2 were found at the usual sites in Des Moines, Fremont, Henry, Lee, Lucas, Polk, and Warren counties. One at Dolliver S.P. in Webster Co. on 7 Jun (SJD) was somewhat north of its usual range. One singing at Lakeside Laboratory in Dickinson Co. on 7 Jul (NBe) may have been an early migrant while one in Ames on 23 Jul (SJD, JJD) was also early.

Yellow Warbler: Noted at 12 locations around Saylorville Res. (BE).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 at Backbone S.P. in Delaware Co. on 3 Jun (WN, details) and 1 at Holst S.F. on 29 Jun (MPR) were the only reports.

Black-throated Green Warbler: A male at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. on 1 Jun (SJD) was late [ties record latest] while another singing in Des Moines on 3 Jul (BEn, details) was the second mid-summer report in 3 years.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1-3 were found in Boone, Des Moines, Johnson, Polk, Van Buren, and Warren counties. One found at Coralville Res. on 29 Jun (THK) adds a second site for that county.

Prairie Warbler: Besides the usual bird at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. in Lee Co. (MPR, SJD, CE), a male was found at Macbride Nat. Rec. A. in Johnson Co. on 4, 5 Jun (CE*); perhaps it was the same bird found at Lake Macbride S.P. on 5 Jun (DLD*).

Cerulean Warbler: 1-5 were found in Allamakee, Boone, Clayton, Dubuque, Hardin, Johnson, Lee, Polk, Warren, and Webster counties.

American Redstart: About 38 were found in Johnson Co. including 15 on 4 Jun at the Macbride Nat. Rec. A. (CE).

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-6 were found in Allamakee, Benton, Des Moines, Johnson, Lee, Muscatine, Polk, Tama, and Warren counties.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1 at White Pine Hollow in Dubuque Co. in Jun (WN) and 2 at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 25 Jun (CE) were the only reports.

Ovenbird: Besides the 10 at Holst S.F. on 29 Jun (MPR), 1-4 were found in Cerro Gordo, Hardin, Lee, Lucas, Polk, Van Buren, Warren, and Winneshiek counties.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 1-3 were found at the usual sites in Boone, Des Moines, Fremont, Lee, Lucas, Muscatine, Van Buren, and Warren counties.

Kentucky Warbler: 1-6 were found in Allamakee, Boone, Clarke, Dubuque, Fayette, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lee, Lucas, Muscatine, Polk, Van Buren, Wapello, and Warren counties, somewhat more than most summers. Included were reports of broods in Johnson (DLD), Polk (Gordon Brown fide SJD), and Wapello (SJD) counties.

Hooded Warbler: Single males were found in the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 9 and 25 Jul (SJD, CE), Yellow River S.F. on 25 Jul (SJD, SBG), and Pilot Knob S.P. on 13 Jul (SJD). The latter location is far out of its usual Iowa range.

Canada Warbler: A late migrant was found at Kindelspire P. in Clay Co. on 1 Jun (SJD) while 1 or 2 males singing at White Pine Hollow in Dubuque Co. from 6 Jun to mid-July (WN, BEh, Pat Schlarbaum, details) are suggestive of nesting.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Singles at Coralville Res. on 29 Jun (THK) and Muskrat Sl. on 27 Jul (SJD), and 2 or 3 in N Lee Co. on 12 Jun, 4, 28 Jul (CE) were the only reports.

Summer Tanager: A pair s of Thurman in Fremont Co. on 16 Jun (MT), 1 n of the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 21 Jun (MPR), and 3 in Des Moines Co. during June (CR) were the only reports.

Scarlet Tanager: Besides 11 at various sites in Johnson Co. (CE), 1-3 were found in 17 counties covering much of the eastern half of Iowa and west to Clay Co.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 in Fremont Co. on 7 Jun (MPR, BPR) was the only report.

Dickcissel: Petersen noted that more were found on two Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in E Iowa than in recent years (PCP).

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 at Lime Creek Nature Center in Mason City on 2 Jun (RGo) was the only report.

Field Sparrow: Fewer were found on two BBS routes in E Iowa than in recent years (PCP).

Vesper Sparrow: Fewer were found on two BBS routes in E Iowa than in recent years (PCP).

Lark Sparrow: 1-3 were found in Allamakee, Fremont, Johnson, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Madison, Muscatine, Polk, and Winneshiek counties.

Henslow's Sparrow: This was a banner year for this rare nester; 16+ (including adults carrying food to young) were noted at L. Sugema W.A. in Van Buren Co. on 8 Jul (SJD). In addition, 2 more were found near that area and 10 more were found in SE Van Buren Co., all on 8 Jul (SJD). One more was found near Donnellson in Lee Co. on 9 Jul (SJD), and 12 were found in Davis Co. (John Fleckenstein fide JJD).

Swamp Sparrow: 4 males at Cardinal M. (DeC) were somewhat east of this species' usual range.

Lapland Longspur: A male in breeding plumage was seen in Chickasaw County on 19, 20 May (Heidi Stallman fide JJD, details)[record latest].

Bobolink: 40 at Cardinal M. on 29 Jul (DeC) were migrants.

Great-tailed Grackle: 8 males and 3 females were at Goose L. in Greene Co. on 1, 15 Jun (SJD, JJD); the females were carrying food to young. Nesting was also noted at Teig's M. in Story Co. (first for the county, SJD). Other reports are 1 at Dunbar Sl. on 4 Jun (PHA, RIA), 4 at Blue L. on 22 Jun (EuA, EIA), 1 at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. on 16 Jul (BFH), and 10 including 3 young at Long Pond in Dallas Co. on 30 Jul (EuA, EIA). We received a late report of 2 males near Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. on 15 May (G. Brown fide SJD), the first report for that county.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Cowbirds were noted parasitizing Horned Lark, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, and Northern Oriole nests (JSi).

Orchard Oriole: 1-3 were found in Cerro Gordo, Fremont, Lee, Linn, and Webster counties.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Singles were seen n of Burlington on 30 Jun (THK) and 9 Jul (SJD).

CONTRIBUTORS

Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Eugene Armstrong (EuA), Booneville; Eloise Armstrong (EIA), Booneville; Neil Bernstein (NBe), Cedar Rapids; Gordon J. Brand (GJB), Newton; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; Jeff Dankert (JD), LaCrosse, WI; Rich DeCoster (RDe), Evanston, IL; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Davenport; David A. Easterla, Maryville, MO; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bruce Ehresman (BEh), Ames; Bery Engebretsen (BEn), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Susan B. Grove, Raleigh, NC; Dennis Henrickson (DH), Estherville; Bill F. Huser (BFH), Sioux City; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Judy Knight (JK), Spencer; Fred Leshner (FL), LaCrosse, WI; William Norris (WN), Story City; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Peterson (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Randy Pinkston (DRP); Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Richard C. Rosche, Chadron, NE; Chris Rogers (CR), Iowa City; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Marie Tiemann (MT), Shenandoah; Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014

ROSS'S GULL FOUND AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

JIM FULLER

Halloween morning 1993 was to provide a treat, not a trick for Pete Wickham and myself. We were taking advantage of the additional hour of morning sun the first day after daylight savings time to bird Red Rock Reservoir, and had arrived at the South Tailwaters Area at 8:15 a.m. to find several hundred gulls, some foraging below the dam, and others loafing on a small rocky island downstream. A bright sun precluded good viewing of the birds on the island, so we backtracked to the Howell Station campground where the gulls were but 40 yards away and the sun was behind us.



From this vantage, almost the first gull that I viewed through my scope was unmistakably different, and I yelled "Ross's Gull". We spent the next five minutes studying the field marks of this beautiful bird, before notifying other birders. Then, for nearly three hours, we observed the bird standing on the rocky bar and flying in the tailwaters area.

The features noted at first glance were a pink blush on the white underparts and a faint crown and nape stripe. But these features were only two of the many that made this gull stand out. The general size was about two-thirds that of the Ring-billed Gulls, with which it was standing. It was not the shape of the ring-billeds either; rather it had a more sleek body, smaller head, shorter bill, shorter legs, and relatively longer wings. The upperparts were generally light gray in color, not different from the adult Ring-billed Gulls, but the white of the underparts was washed with pink.

The head was very small and rounded, more like that of a pigeon. The bill was black and so small that it looked out of place on a gull, but rather belonged to a passerine. The side of the head also had a pink wash. The eye was dark, and there was a dark smudge just in front of it. There was a faint crown and nape stripe, which was darker directly behind the eye. This feature would suggest an adult bird molting into basic plumage, as this stripe is quite pronounced in alternate plumage.

The legs were very short and a bright orange-red color. The primaries extended about 1.5 inches beyond the tail. In flight, the white tail was long and wedge-shaped. The wings were quite long. The upperwing was a uniform light gray, save for a narrow white trailing edge, and the underwing appeared to be light colored. Several times the bird flew to the tailwaters area, and even at a distance of 250 yards, the pink on the underparts could be seen well with binoculars. While on the island, the bird was continually moving. It waddled like a pigeon or dove, and picked at the rocks.

After an hour and a half, Eugene and Eloise Armstrong and Ann Johnson arrived, and during the day many others made the trek to Red Rock. Those who came early Monday morning, 1 November, also were treated to good views of the bird, but about 9:30 a.m., it flew up and over the facing of the dam, not to be seen again.

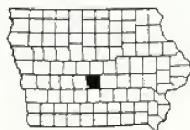
Primarily an Old World bird, Ross's Gull is tied to the ice of the Arctic. In the New World, it breeds in northern Canada and Greenland. It does wander south, on occasion, and has been recorded in all the states surrounding Iowa, most recently in Nebraska during the winter of 1993. On New Year's Day 1992, one was seen by a number of Iowa birders near St. Louis, Missouri. In most previous appearances in the lower 48 states, it has accompanied ice during the winter months. So, an October date makes this first Iowa record even more unusual.

6 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240

FIRST-WINTER CALIFORNIA GULL AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR

RANDY PINKSTON

In the early afternoon on 6 December 1993, I was scanning through a distant flock of Ring-billed Gulls above the Saylorville Reservoir dam, Polk County. I was using my Zeiss 10 x 40 binocular and a Bausch & Lomb 30x telescope. My attention was drawn to a dark brown immature gull on the near side of the flock. On the water it seemed no larger than nearby Ring-billed Gulls. Its bill was distinctly bicolored: pinkish at the base, black at the tip. The pale bill base blended with whitish feathering at the front of the face. The remainder of the head and back were a rich chocolate-brown, indeed the darkest parts of the bird except for the black flight feathers and tail. I noticed a dark smudge around the eye at some angles. A pale patch was noted on the nape when it lowered its bill or when the wind blew from behind. The tertials were distinctly bicolored: basal two-thirds solid dark brown, distal third whitish. The wing coverts were paler than the rest of the upperparts and mottled with brown bars parallel to the feather shafts. The underparts were also a paler mottled brown.



In flight, the gull was easily picked out among others by its overall dark brown appearance. Its size was intermediate between Ring-billed and Herring gulls. Proportionately, its body was more slender and its wings longer when compared to Herring Gull. The underwing was entirely dark. The upperwing displayed two dark bars across the secondaries and greater wing coverts.

In comparison to several first-winter Herring Gulls observed that day, this gull's smaller size, darker head and neck relative to the underparts, and bicolored bill were consistent distinguishing characters. I suspected it might be a California Gull, and I reported it to the Iowa Bird Line.

Thirteen days later on the Saylorville Reservoir Christmas Bird Count, Stephen J. Dinsmore identified a first-winter California Gull (presumably the same individual) at Lakeview Recreation Area. Steve's description matches mine, and he noted the following additional distinguishing characters compared to nearby Herring Gulls: lack of a pale "window" at the base of the primaries, a slender bill with no pronounced gonys, and wing coverts "neatly" barred with dark brown. Steve also noted a dark eye, pink legs, and noticeably pale rump and vent.

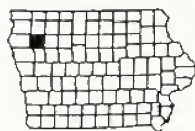
This is the fifth accepted record of California Gull for Iowa, and the second record for Saylorville Reservoir. The first state record was an adult at Credit Island in Scott County on 23-24 November 1989 (Petersen, *Iowa Bird Life* 61:121-122, 1991). The second and third state records occurred in fall 1990. An adult, possibly two, were observed at Saylorville Reservoir in September-October (Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 62:24-25, 1992), and a first-winter bird was present at Coralville Reservoir, Johnson County, on 27-28 October that year (Kent, *Iowa Bird Life* 61:123-124, 1991). The fourth Iowa record was an adult at Carter Lake, Pottawattamie County, on 21-23 November 1993 (Bray, *Iowa Bird Life* 64:82-83, 1994).

12 Hillcrest Dr., Salado, TX 76571-9576

GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN IN CHEROKEE COUNTY

DICK BIERMAN

On 4 January 1994, I was driving into Cherokee from the south on U. S. highway 59. It was mid afternoon on a cold day. As I passed the airport I saw a tan-to-brown, large, chunky, short-tailed bird fly up from the shoulder of the road and land about 100 feet away on top of a pile of pushed-up snow. My initial thought was that it could not be a hen pheasant because of the plumpness of the bird and the short tail. A Gray Partridge was eliminated as this bird was much too large.



I pulled into an area where I could get a good look at the bird from about 50 feet away. Using my 7x35 binoculars that I had in my vehicle, I was able to see a heavily barred breast, a yellowish-orange comb over the eye, and feathered tarsi. I took a couple of pictures of the bird and decided to flush it to get a better look at the tail. When the bird flushed, it fanned its tail as it landed about another 50 feet away and showed a dark-brown color on the upper side of the tail. Having seen numerous Sharp-tailed Grouse while on many deer hunts in Wyoming, I was certain that I had a prairie chicken in front of me, but which one?

After consulting several bird guides, I was convinced that I had a male Greater Prairie-Chicken. The Lesser Prairie-Chicken is paler in color and not as boldly marked. The feathers were in excellent condition and showed no wear on the tail or wings. Also, there were no bands on either leg. This further convinced me that I had a wild bird, not an escaped or released bird. I contacted the only exotic animal owners in the area, and they said that they had never had any prairie chickens in their possession.

Over the next few weeks several birders were able to see, photograph, and confirm my sighting. I last saw the bird on 5 April in very suitable habitat four miles south of Cherokee. I also have had a recent report of it being sighted seven miles south of Cherokee on 5 August.

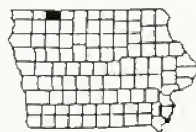
This was my first sighting of this species, the first recent sighting for Cherokee County, and one of only ten or so for the state since 1960.

901 Harris, Cherokee, IA 51012-1546

GYRFALCON IN NORTHWESTERN IOWA

ROSS SILCOCK

The Gyrfalcon is one of Iowa's rarest birds, and so a sighting of one at Kettleston Hogsback Waterfowl Production Area in Dickinson County on 25 September 1993 generated considerable excitement amongst those observers lucky enough to be present.



Around 3:30 p.m. on a clear, sunny day, a group of I.O.U. birders including Eugene and Eloise Armstrong, John Cecil, Jane Clark, Maridel Jackson, Tim Schantz, Jim Sinclair, and I happened to congregate at the Kettleston Hogsback ponds. To improve our viewing conditions, we were at the northwestern corner of the area, on the gravel road. Soon, Tim Schantz noticed a falcon flying into the area from the southwest. His first thought was that it was a Peregrine Falcon, but it soon

became apparent that this bird was larger, flew with effortless power and grace, and did not have any of the field marks associated with that species. Indeed, this bird was simply overall gray, with no plumage features mentioned by any of the observers. It traversed the area from west to east, harassing waterfowl, turned south, and departed. The entire observation lasted a maximum of about 20 seconds at a minimum of about 100 yards.

Documentations submitted by Clark, Jackson, Schantz, Silcock and Sinclair all noted the lack of features characteristic of Peregrine such as a blackish "helmet" and facial markings, paler underparts, as well as the sheer size of this bird relative to waterfowl present, especially Canada Geese, and its manner of flight, which was not the powerful but slashing flight of a Peregrine, but instead the bird had "a slower and deeper wingbeat" (Clark) and its flight was "not fluttery" (Jackson). It was described as "an absolutely awesome large falcon" (Silcock), and most observers mentioned a long tailed appearance. Clark and Jackson had extensive recent experience with hatched Peregrines in flight and in hand. The bird was gray, not brown, eliminating Prairie, as did the lack of pale underparts and dark axillars, as well as the bird's size.

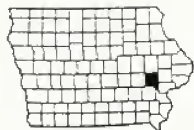
The I.O.U. Records Committee accepted this record (Kent, *Iowa Bird Life* 64:68, 1994; note that the date of the sighting is incorrect), with slight reservations about the early date of the sighting and the possibility of an escaped falconer's bird. The earliest Minnesota record is 22 September (Schantz). Most falconers would have put a jess on a bird as valuable as a Gyrfalcon.

P. O. Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653

A WINTER RECORD FOR NASHVILLE WARBLER

JIM FULLER

There was a great deal of anticipation on this 19 December 1993, Iowa City Christmas Bird Count as Jim Scheib, John McClure, and I began to search the evergreen trees that border the Hancher Auditorium Parking Lot on the University of Iowa campus. It was at this location that we had discovered two Pine Warblers on the previous year's count. Almost immediately we observed a small bird fly into the top of a Norway Pine. The first impression was a kinglet, but in the binoculars the bird was much too yellow. It was soon apparent that for the second year in a row we had a warbler, this one a Nashville.



This warbler-sized bird had unstreaked lemon-yellow underparts from throat to vent, except for a whitish area between the legs. The side of the face, crown, and nape were all gray. The dark eye was surrounded by a faint white eye ring. The back was brownish-green, as were the wings, and there were no wingbars. The bill was gray, thin, and pointed. The legs were dark. The three warblers with which this species might be confused are Mourning, Connecticut, and MacGillivray's. All three have much more extensive gray on the head and upper breast, including the throat where this bird was yellow. All three also have light legs, whereas this bird's legs were dark.

During mid-morning we watched for some time as the warbler gleaned the evergreen needles as it moved from tree to tree. Others observed it later in the afternoon, but it was not seen on any subsequent day.

This is a first winter record for Nashville Warbler in the state. It is interesting to note that the previous day, no fewer than three birds of this species were found in a single tree on the Omaha, Nebraska, count. Chicago has its "magic hedge" along Lake Michigan where rarities appear with regularity. Maybe Iowa City has its own magic conifers. What will turn up there in 1994?

6 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240

RING-BILLED GULLS NESTING IN DICKINSON COUNTY

TIM J. WALTZ

On 16 May 1994, Brian Hellyer and I were seeding some new dikes on the Meinking Wildlife Management Area just east of East Lake Okobojo in Dickinson County. While working, we noticed a large number of Ring-billed Gulls on the far end of the dike across the lower end of one of the smaller wetlands north of the large restored wetland that dominates the complex. When we approached these birds, we discovered 13 nests, 11 in the alfalfa planting adjacent to the dike and 2 among the rocks on the top of the spillway on the dike. We returned to this area on 18 May and checked it more closely. We counted 18 Ring-billed Gull nests; most of them contained two or three eggs but three contained only one egg. All of the nests were on the ground and consisted of a simple cup of dead vegetation (Figure 1). Most of them were in the alfalfa but a few were on the rock that made up the spillway. There were also what appeared to be several new nests that contained no eggs. I remained in the colony only briefly during which time the gulls hovered overhead or perched on the ground nearby. I returned to the area again on 20 May and noticed that one of the nests that previously had contained three eggs was now empty. There was no sign of any egg fragments in that nest. That was the last time that I visited the colony.

On 22 May, Stephen Dinsmore visited this area and found no sign of any of the nests and no gulls present. I assume that some predator, perhaps a raccoon, had visited the colony and preyed upon the nests.

This is the first report of Ring-billed Gulls nesting in Iowa. The number of Ring-billed Gulls reported summering in Iowa has been increasing steadily over the past decade and in recent years, several hundred have summered in the Spirit Lake area (J. J. Dinsmore, pers. commun.). Many of these gulls regularly feed at the Spirit Lake landfill, located immediately to the northeast of the Meinking area and less than half a mile from the site of this colony. The nearest Ring-billed Gull colony is in eastern South Dakota on Bitter Lake near Watertown. This colony is about 130 miles northwest of the Meinking area. Thus this nesting attempt, although unsuccessful, was a significant extension of this species' nesting range.

I appreciate the help of Stephen J. Dinsmore who provided information from his visit to the colony and also information on Ring-billed Gull nesting sites in South Dakota.



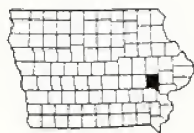
Ring-billed Gull nest, Meinking Marsh, Dickinson Co.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources, RR, Box 7244, Spirit Lake, IA 51360

WHIMBREL AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

CHRIS EDWARDS

At 3:30 p.m. on 27 May 1994 I drove to Sandy Beach Recreation Area on the north side of the Coralville Reservoir to look for shorebirds. On the previous day the mudflats there had attracted several species including Ruddy Turnstone and Hudsonian Godwit. As I was scanning with binoculars I noticed a large shorebird walking and foraging in shallow water along the shoreline. I immediately noted its long decurved bill and striped crown and realized I was viewing my first Whimbrel. In a few moments the bird stopped near an American Golden-Plover and two Black-bellied Plovers. Over the next hour I used a telescope to study it carefully, gradually moving to within 50 yards of the bird.



The Whimbrel was almost twice the size of the nearby American Golden-Plover. It had a small head with a relatively long neck, a plump body, and long legs. Its bill was black, decurved, and 2.5 times as long as the head. Its head was strikingly patterned, with a thin, light median-crown stripe; wide chestnut-brown lateral crown stripes; light eyebrows; and dark-brown eyestripes, which were more pronounced between the eye and the bill. The eyes were black. The bird's head, neck, and breast were lightly streaked with brown, and its sides were white with very light brown barring. The belly and undertail coverts were white. The back, scapulars, wing coverts and tertials were medium brown with some light speckling. On the standing bird, the primaries appeared very dark brown or black, and the outer tail feathers were alternately barred with medium and dark brown. The underside of the wings, seen briefly while the bird was preening, were white with light brown or gray speckling. The legs appeared dark gray.

The Whimbrel spent most of this time loafing, but I also observed it bathing and preening. No vocalizations were heard. When I departed the bird was still resting, and within minutes I notified the Iowa Birdline. That evening the bird was observed in the same location by Jim Fuller, James Scheib, and David Dankert. At 7:45 p.m. it flew across the lake and was not seen again.

The Whimbrel is a casual spring migrant in Iowa. Spring records range from 22 April to 27 May, with most seen in mid- to late May. There are also one summer and three fall records. Whimbrels are known to migrate in small groups, but the majority of Iowa sightings have been of single birds, with the most being 15 on 23 May 1973 at Red Rock Reservoir (Brown 1973). Whimbrels have been recorded in all areas of the state.

There are two populations of the North American subspecies of the Whimbrel. Iowa birds most likely are strays from the eastern population, which in spring migrates from the Atlantic coast northwesterly across the Great Lakes to nesting areas west of Hudson Bay (Dinsmore et al 1984). Fall migrants follow a more easterly course via the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Richards 1988), which may explain why there are few fall records for Iowa. The western population migrates along the Pacific coast and nests in Alaska and northwestern Canada. Whimbrels winter along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts from the southern United States to Brazil and Chile (Stout 1967).

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85 Whitman Avenue, North Liberty, IA 52317

I.O.U. BUSINESS FALL BUSINESS MEETING

Pella, 29 October 1994, 4:30-5:00 p.m.

MARY KUHLMAN, SECRETARY

On behalf of the I.O.U., President Ann Barker thanked Ann Johnson, Tim Schantz, Roy Godwin, and Doyle Woods for their work on local arrangements for the meeting.

It was moved (Bud Gode, seconded by Carol Thompson) to approve the minutes of the spring business meeting as published in *Iowa Bird Life*. Motion carried.

Reports

The treasurer's report indicated that the organization is in good financial shape. Membership is down slightly, and members were encouraged to distribute membership brochures to potential members.

The 1995 budget will be considered at the Board of Directors meeting on 6 November. Barker requested that all budget information and requests be given to her or to Pam Allen immediately.

Records: No report. Barker commended the committee for their continued review of old records.

Membership: No report.

Publications: No report. Comments are welcome from members concerning publications.

Library/Historical: No report.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Half of the accounts are now with the editor. The University of Iowa Press will publish the atlas and D.N.R. employees will probably do the layout. A list of photos still needed was distributed. D.N.R. money will be used to keep the price of the atlas down and for distribution of the book to schools.

Big Day: The membership was asked if Big Day should continue. Only five teams participated. It will be discussed by the Board of Directors.

Educational Booklet Promotion: Plans are continuing to reprint the booklet. A few additions and corrections are planned.

Spring Count: Fourteen counties participated in 1994, twice as many as in 1993. Results will be reported in the first 1995 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. The 1995 Spring Count will be on 13 May. Members were encouraged to participate. Iowa results are reported for the national compilation.

Field Trips: A trip to southwestern Iowa is planned for 12 November. Future field trips will be announced in the newsletter.

Nominating: Harold White, chair, Mark Proescholdt, and Reid Allen have been appointed to this committee. They will prepare a slate willing to serve, if elected, for the offices of president, vice president and three board of directors positions. The committee will report to the board at its early spring meeting. The slate will be published in the newsletter.

Bird Line: No report.

Old business

The Board of Directors proposed a constitutional change to clarify term eligibility and the election process. It was moved (Jim Dinsmore, seconded by Hank Zaletel) that under ARTICLE IV--OFFICERS, Section 2, replace the second sentence with:

After serving two consecutive terms (excluding partial terms), a member is not eligible for reelection to the same office until one full term has elapsed.

Motion passed.

It was moved (Tom Kent, seconded by Ray Cummins) that under ARTICLE VIII, Section 4, replace the entire section with:

The order of election shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Members. The election for each position shall be carried out separately except for the election of Board members, which shall be considered together. In each case, the presiding officer shall ask for additional nominations from the floor and not in any way allow or suggest limitation of nominations until no more are forthcoming. In order to be nominated at the meeting, the nominee must agree to serve, either by prior consent to the nominator or directly at the meeting. If only one person is nominated or, in the case of the Board of Directors, the number matches the number of positions available, the presiding officer shall declare such persons elected. Otherwise, a vote shall be taken by secret ballot among members present at the meeting. A candidate receiving a majority vote of those voting is elected. If needed, a runoff vote will be among the two candidates with the most votes (and ties). In the election for Board positions, each member present may vote for as many candidates as there are positions available. If needed, the runoff vote will be among twice as many candidates (and ties) as there are positions left to be filled.

Motion passed.

Upcoming meetings: The spring meeting will be held in Ida Grove on 19-21 May 1995 and the fall meeting will be in Dixon (near the Quad Cities) on 8-10 September 1995.

New business

There was no new business.

Announcements

The Board of Directors will meet at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, 6 November at Lake Red Rock.

Carol Thompson announced a meeting 1 December 1994 in Des Moines concerning setting up a stable source for funding the nongame program of the D.N.R. Contact Laura Jackson for more information.

Jim Dinsmore reported on the Watchable Wildlife project that has received funds from I.O.U. A guide to 75-80 Iowa wildlife areas is being written for publication in 1995.

Hank Zaletel reminded members to send him Christmas Bird Count Dates for the newsletter.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

The four issues of Iowa Bird Life published in 1944 contained 80 pages, the longest volume of the journal to that date. The last issue of 1944 included an article by Jack Musgrove on the subspecies of Horned Larks found in Iowa, a note describing the donation of the Oscar P. Allert bird collection to Iowa State University (where it still is being used by students), and a review of ornithology in Iowa by Philip DuMont. The latter article describes the formation of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and discusses a number of prominent early members of the I.O.U. DuMont also updated some of his papers on Iowa's avifauna that he published in the mid-1930s. He notes that in a decade, nine nesting species and 13 species or subspecies had been added to Iowa's state list. He also lists five species that he expected would be found nesting in Iowa. Although three (Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow) have subsequently been found nesting in the state, we are still waiting for the first nesting records for Lark Bunting and Brewer's Blackbird. Another article reminds us of the effect World War II had on our country. In this article, some birding notes gleaned from letters received from five I.O.U. members serving in the armed forces overseas are summarized. These notes, from North Africa, Italy, New Hebrides, and Fiji, point out that 50 years ago, even rudimentary field guides were not available for much of the world. As a result, the letter writers had difficulty in identifying many of the birds they saw.—ed.

